

timely fashion and can bring a financial return equal to coca, the farmers could very easily return to illegal drug cultivation returning Bolivia to the status of a major coca producing nation as in the past.

The bottom line, Mr. Speaker is that Bolivia has done a remarkable job in reversing the drug trade in that region and for that, they should be recognized and congratulated. But more than that, we should be rewarding their success with additional funds which they need and have requested in order to continue the successful effort and ensure that the gains are not reversed. It makes no sense to recognize Bolivia's successful efforts, thank them for all they are doing to help protect American citizens from drugs and then not continue to help them finish the job they set out to do. I hope that our Administration understands this and that if and when they send a request for additional counter narcotics assistance to the Congress they consider including some level of additional assistance for Bolivia.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1906,
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID L. HOBSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 1, 1999

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for a job well done on the fiscal year 2000 Agriculture Appropriations Act which contained \$1.2 billion for disaster assistance.

As you know, this summer's drought has placed a heavy burden on the agricultural industry in several parts of the country. Not only have crops been devastated, but the drought has also caused corresponding economic loss to livestock and dairy producers. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture has recently estimated the natural disaster losses for all affected states to total \$3.56 billion. The State of Ohio alone has suffered losses nearing \$600 million, almost 15 percent of Ohio's largest industry. In my district, Pickaway County's estimated crop value for this year's harvest is \$39 million below average. When this disaster is compounded with the existing low commodity prices, it puts our farmers in the most dire economic situation in recent memory.

Last week, I communicated with both the leadership and committee members to ensure that the final aid package would be augmented to provide adequate funding for United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster assistance programs such as the Crop Loss Disaster Assistance Program, the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program, the Livestock Assistance Program, and the Emergency Conservation Programs. Thankfully, the Republican Congress was able to pass an Agriculture Appropriations bill that included \$1.2 billion in much-needed disaster assistance for our farmers.

To close, Mr. Speaker, I would again like to commend this Congress and especially those

who have been instrumental in passing meaningful economic assistance to the farming community that serves as the foundation of this great Nation.

HONORING LINDA DOOLIN WARD,
CENTRAL EXCHANGE 1999 WOMAN
OF THE YEAR

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an exceptional leader and friend to our Kansas City community. Today Linda Doolin Ward will be honored as the 1999 Woman of the Year by the Central Exchange. Linda Doolin Ward has an extensive history with Kansas City and has shown outstanding leadership in her career and contributions to our metropolitan area. This prestigious award recognizes her commitment to gender concerns and her desire for equality in the workplace and society.

She is currently President of the Women's Foundation, a local organization dedicated to funding programs and services which assist women. I am especially impressed with her work at the Women's Foundation to establish grants to help meet the health care, employment, and educational needs of women. This year the Foundation will announce \$125,000 worth of grants addressing domestic violence, parenting, and professional development skills.

Serving on numerous boards, Mrs. Doolin Ward has demonstrated her significant presence as a catalyst for change. She was the first woman to be Board President and Chairperson of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City and served as the Executive Director of the Central Exchange. She is the Co-Chair of the FOCUS strategic planning project, was recently appointed to the Port Authority of Kansas City, and serves as a Committee Chairwoman for the Partnership for Children.

Linda Doolin Ward's career is just as impressive as her record of volunteerism. For 15 years she worked as an executive with Payless Cashways, Inc., and is now Vice President of Investor Relations and Corporate Communications with the American Italian Pasta Company. In addition to these achievements, she is married to her high school sweetheart, Terry Ward, and a devoted mother to her son, Jason. As a role model for women across the nation, Linda Doolin Ward has shown us how to balance family life with work and still make room to contribute to the people in our community.

I am honored to acknowledge Linda Doolin Ward for her successful efforts to promote equity and opportunity for women and her commitment to making our community a better place. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Central Exchange 1999 Woman of the Year, Linda Doolin Ward.

LAND TRANSFER TO THE
GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, commercial growth along the southwest border increased at such a rate as to render current infrastructure resources obsolete in dealing with the volume of commercial traffic comfortably, economically and efficiently. Between 1990 and 1995, the border town of San Luis, Arizona witnessed a population increase of more than ninety percent, from 4,212 to 8,026. The combined population of San Luis and its sister city in San Luis, Sonora, Mexico is 350,000.

Since 1924, San Luis has served as a port of entry between the U.S. and Mexico. In 1998, the port experienced average daily crossings of 360 commercial vehicles, 7,500 private vehicles, and 5,865 pedestrian crossings. The average delay experienced by a commercial vehicle is nearly 2 hours. Delays for private vehicles can be of similar length depending on the time of day. Current port facilities are unable to expedite the current volume of traffic, and the increasing volume will only make a bad situation worse, unless efforts are made to reroute commercial traffic.

Today I am introducing legislation that authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer lands to the Greater Yuma Port Authority as a first in a series of steps toward building a new port of entry to clear commercial traffic through San Luis, Arizona.

This legislative measure has the support of the parties that make up the Grater Yuma Port Authority such as Yuma County, the cities of San Luis and Somerton, and the Cocopah Indian Tribe. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

TRIBUTE TO DR. PEDRO JOSÉ
GREER, JR.

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true humanitarian, an outstanding Cuban-American physician, a genuine hero, Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr., whose love for mankind, especially for the poor and homeless, is an admirable example for contemporary American society.

My uncle and aunt, Alfredo and Isabel Caballero, recently sent me a book authored by Dr. Greer with the cooperation of another admirable Cuban-American: Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Liz Balmaseda. The book is titled, "Waking Up In America", and I highly recommend it to you, Mr. Speaker, and to all my colleagues.

Dr. Greer courageously denounces how society neglects millions of Americans who lack adequate health care. Dr. Greer is the medical director and one of the founders in South Florida of the Camilus Health Concern, a free clinic for the poor, and the San Juan Bosco Clinic for the poor. He has won a MacArthur Fellowship "Genius Grant" and was recognized by Time Magazine as one of Fifty Top Young

Leaders Under 40 in 1994. Dr. Greer has also been honored by two U.S. Presidents.

Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr. was brought up in a family with a tradition of love and service for our fellow man, formed by his father Dr. Pedro Greer, a prestigious Cuban gastroenterologist, and his mother, Mrs. Maria Teresa Medina Greer. Dr. Greer's great-grandfather fought for Cuba's freedom in 1898.

I would like to express my gratitude and congratulations to Dr. Pedro José Greer Jr. for his love and work for America and also extend this congratulatory message to his proud parents, his wife Janus Munley Greer, his children Alana and Joey and his sister and brother in law, Sally and Brian Belt.

HONORING SCHOOL FOODSERVICE DIRECTOR HELEN RANKIN

HON. JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 5, 1999

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call my colleagues' attention to National School Lunch Week which we will celebrate next week. Having grown up in the restaurant business, I feel a special camaraderie with school food service professionals. Every day, professional across the country ensure that our students have at least one hot, nutritious meal to help them grow and learn.

Maine is blessed with many extraordinary school food service professionals. But one in particular stands out—Helen Rankin, foodservice director for Maine School Administrative District 55, based in Hiram, Maine. Hiram is not what anybody would describe as a metropolitan area. It is a small, rural area much like most of Maine.

Helen has brought a degree of professionalism to her operation that belies the small size of the school system. Her commitment to quality and top performance by herself and her staff has made her a leader in Maine and across the nation.

Earlier this year, Helen was featured in the national publication *School Foodservice & Nutrition*. The article just scratches the surface of Helen's activities on behalf of her clients—school children in the Hiram area and beyond. She recognizes that school food services are a crucial building block in a child's education. We all know that hungry children cannot learn and that their bodies cannot grow and develop as they should.

Helen Rankin is a dynamic, dedicated professional. Maine students have benefitted tremendously from her leadership. I am proud to have the opportunity today to pay tribute to her, and to all of Maine's school foodservice professionals. I hope that next week, during National School Lunch Week, all of my colleagues will take the opportunity to recognize these hardworking individuals.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the *School Foodservice & Nutrition* article about Helen Rankin to be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at this point.

HELEN RANKIN

BRINGING BIG-TIME PROFESSIONALISM TO A
SMALL-TOWN DISTRICT

(By Mark Ward, Sr.)

Try to find Hiram, Maine, on a road atlas and it might take you a while. But while the

town may be off the main highway, it's squarely on the map of leading school foodservice operations.

"We don't have the facilities of a larger district, but we're still on the cutting edge. And even if we don't have a lot of students, we do a lot for them," reports Helen Rankin, foodservice director for Maine School Administrative District No. 55, based in Hiram and serving five rural communities in the southwest corner of the state.

What puts Hiram on the school foodservice map is a simple maxim: "I insist on professionalism," declares Rankin of her school nutrition team. For example, though the district's six schools serve just 800 lunches a day, each member of Rankin's staff is an ASFSA member, has taken a sanitation course and is a ServSafe certified food service handler. And despite an annual budget of just \$400,000 (which includes a district appropriation of just \$11,000), the department pays the expenses for its employees to attend state association conferences.

That commitment to professionalism and continuing education starts with Rankin herself. After 40 years in school foodservice, including 30 years in her present post, she's not resting on her laurels. At the state level, she has helped to transform what was a small association into a professional organization that now boasts 700 members and conducts a statewide peer review program. And, as a former Maine School Food Service Association (MSFSA) president, Rankin enjoys respect and clout with state and local policymakers.

And though Hiram may be a small dot on the roadmap, Rankin sees no limit to her own professional horizons. She has spoken at conferences across the country, been nominated twice for ASFSA national office and served as Northeast Regional Director on the National Association's Executive Board. Throughout the 1990s, Rankin's influence has been felt on the ASFSA Public Policy and Legislative Committee and, more recently, its Political Action Committee (PAC).

"By making a commitment to get involved with my profession," Rankin reflects, "I've had opportunities that a person from a small rural town, who started out with only a 9th-grade education, might only have dreamed of."

FROM PTA TO PROFESSIONAL

Forty years ago, the notion that a school cafeteria worker could be a "school foodservice professional" was rarely encouraged—or even understood. Back then, Rankin says, she first became involved with school meals "because the PTA, which I was president of, was responsible for the hot lunch program." When the group hired a new cook who quit after just one day, it was up to Rankin to fill the gap. "We had 75 students at that school and, after volunteering at first, I ultimately got paid \$15 a week to cook the meals and clean the kitchen," she recalls.

Over time, Rankin received her own high school equivalency certificate and went on to earn a bachelor's degree. Then in her ninth year as de facto school foodservice manager, the school was incorporated into a newly formed district. In turn, that brought the hiring of a district foodservice director. Like the cook a decade earlier, the person who filled this position resigned after a brief stint, which paved the way for Rankin to assume the post.

"In those days we had no free lunch program, and I can remember kids who would bring in a jar of water and a piece of bread to eat," Rankin continues. Now, 30 years later, "We have reimbursable meals, a breakfast program, a la carte service—plus marketing and promotion, and the expectation

that we have to be financially self-supporting. Times certainly have changed," she adds.

It also was 30 years ago that Rankin was introduced to ASFSA and the concept that school foodservice could be a professional pursuit. "MSFSA's conference were small," she recalls, "So I went to my first state meeting in Connecticut. That got me fired up and, along with some other foodservice directors from Maine, we decided to start building up our own state association and making it more active."

Professional involvements "are hard work" Rankin admits. And many times her volunteer commitments require extra hours at work because, lacking funds to hire a full central office staff, Rankin first must handle all the business affairs of the district office. "Yet you learn so much by going to meetings and participating in your profession," she remarks. "Every time I go to a conference or event, I find out what's going on in the industry and the profession. Best of all is the exchange of ideas you get, because you can talk with other professionals one-on-one."

PRESERVATION AND PROGRESS

And while Rankin is a firm believer in the need for school foodservice professionals to meet with and learn from one another, she also emphasizes the need for the profession to build relationships with government, industry—and the public.

That realization came to Rankin—and many other school foodservice operators—in a big way, five years ago, when a push was made in Congress to eliminate the National School Lunch Program. As a result, child nutrition advocates from both large urban districts and small rural schools joined with politicians, industry partners and others to make their case for the need for school nutrition programs to remain a federal program.

Today, ending the National School Lunch Program is no longer an issue. The visibility and respect that the school food-service profession earned on Capitol Hill during the debate remains in force.

To preserve these gains and secure more victories, Rankin reports that the goal of the ASFSA PAC is to "ensure that supporters of child nutrition are re-elected to public office."

Like school foodservice directors across the country, Rankin also has focused attention on building bridges at the state level. Back home in Maine, she has helped the profession establish a presence in the state legislature, governor's mansion and in city and county councils statewide. Currently, school food-service directors in Maine are pressing for increased support of nutrition education programs.

In a career that already has spanned 40 years, Rankin has set a personal goal she hopes to achieve before retirement. "School foodservice should be respected enough to be recognized as an integral part of the education process, and therefore included in school planning," she asserts. "For example, determining how much time is allotted for lunch should have the same weight as planning for class periods, rather than just giving lunch whatever time is left over."

Because Rankin is employed in a small district, she enjoys—in a way not available to directors in many large districts—personal and daily contact with school officials. Therefore, she's enthused about the prospects of realizing her goals and seeing her district become a national model for integrating nutrition and education planning.

"Whether your district is large or small, the basic challenges are the same," Rankin concludes. "For example, I may not have the